

A Horrific Find in Mexico's Mass Graves

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Mexico has a disappearing people problem that has existed for a couple of decades. The government confirms that **disappeared people**, just over 18,000 of which

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The rest are the result of cartel and organized crime activity — rivals, kidnapped people, informants, or others caught in territorial disputes — but critics say that number isn't accurate. It's much higher. There's really no way to confirm the actual numbers, but any disappeared person is one too many.

And given that the number of clandestine graves found in Mexico is also on the rise, it's entirely possible that the number *is* much higher. The Mexican government likes to downplay this topic, **but a United Nations committee** on enforced disappearances has estimated that more than 4,500 graves have been found, containing over 6,200 bodies and 4,600 human remains, in addition to some 72,000 unidentified human remains. Other human rights organizations **ha**

Because official forensic capacity is overwhelm volunteers or family-led search collectives.

And that's exactly what led to the gruesome di:

Buscando Cuerpos en Todo México (or Search group of mothers who are searching for their c congresswoman Margarita López Pérez, and th smoke near a garbage dump in Zacapu in the s

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In the years since, they've excavated the site and found what they say are 1,600 children's teeth (ages one to 12), in addition to adult teeth, vertebrae, and phalanges. López, whose own daughter went missing in 2011, suspects that the teeth belong to at least 80 children, likely many more, who were potentially the victims of sexual exploitation, organ trafficking, or child pornography. The land was allegedly linked to a Sinaloa drug trafficker and served as a makeshift crematorium.

Both the Mexican federal prosecutor's office and the Michoacán state prosecutor's office say that they have no record or confirmation of any of this information. But that doesn't mean these claims should be dismissed. The state prosecutor's office often downplays talk of mass graves and cartel activities, focusing on these things that official search teams miss.

According to various Mexican media reports, the video is still recirculating online along with this information about seeing "dead or sedated children being killed." The video is related. When the video originally went live, Michoacán's state prosecutor denied the discovery of a trailer or mass grave.

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Even so, Senator Laura Esquivel Torres, a member of the conservative Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), brought the matter up recently. She chairs the Senate's Commission on the Rights of Children and Adolescents and asked for a moment of silence for the alleged victims and demanded answers from the Attorney General's Office and state officials.

The group that found the remains **has also been rallying outside** the office, asking for genetic testing on the remains.

López has accused the government of downplaying the issue, and she even claims that a federal prosecutor and forensic expert were present during the recovery. She's also calling for help from the international community, particularly the Red Cross.

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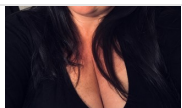


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foreign policy, with a passion for Latin America and the Caribbean.

When she's not writing, you can find her chasing animals, swimming every chance she gets, traveling, gardening, or yelling at a Georgia Bulldogs or Atlanta Falcons football game.

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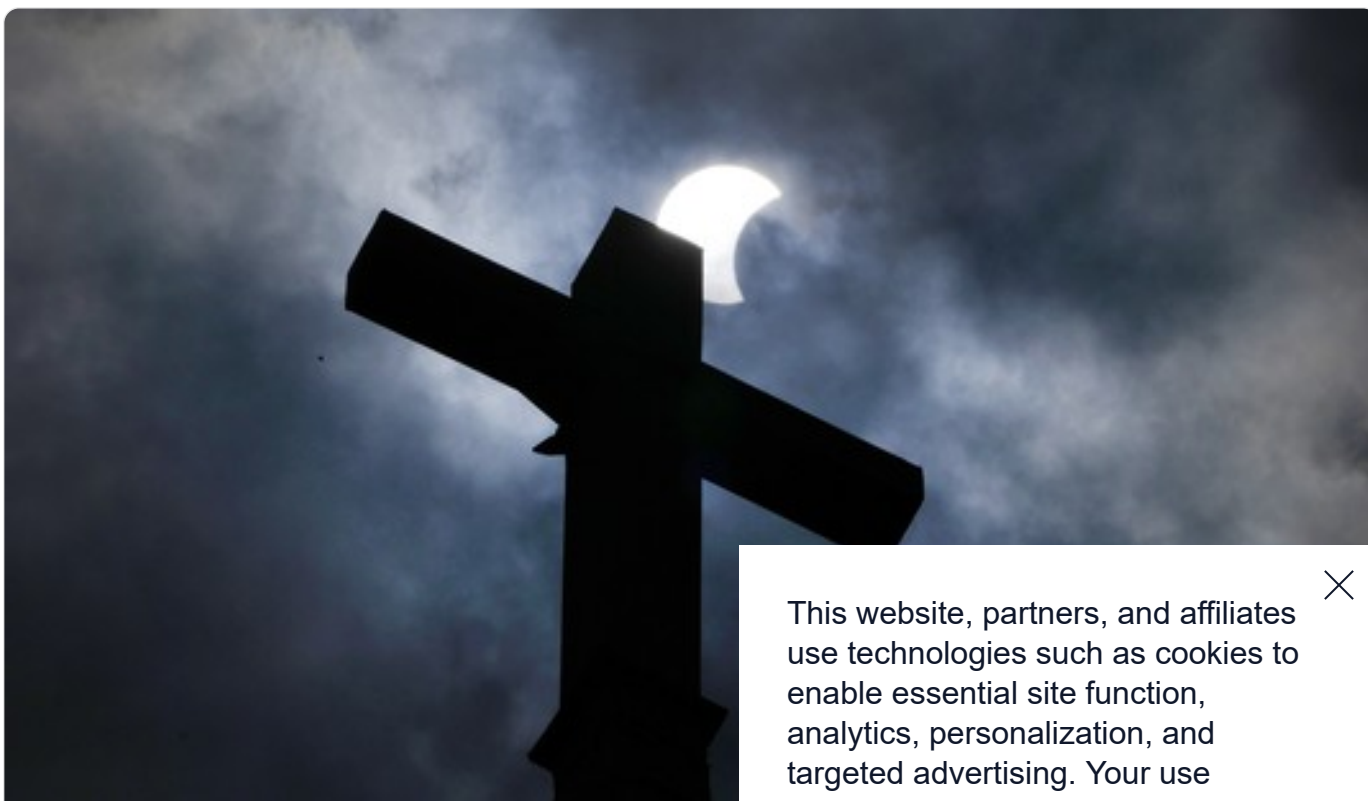
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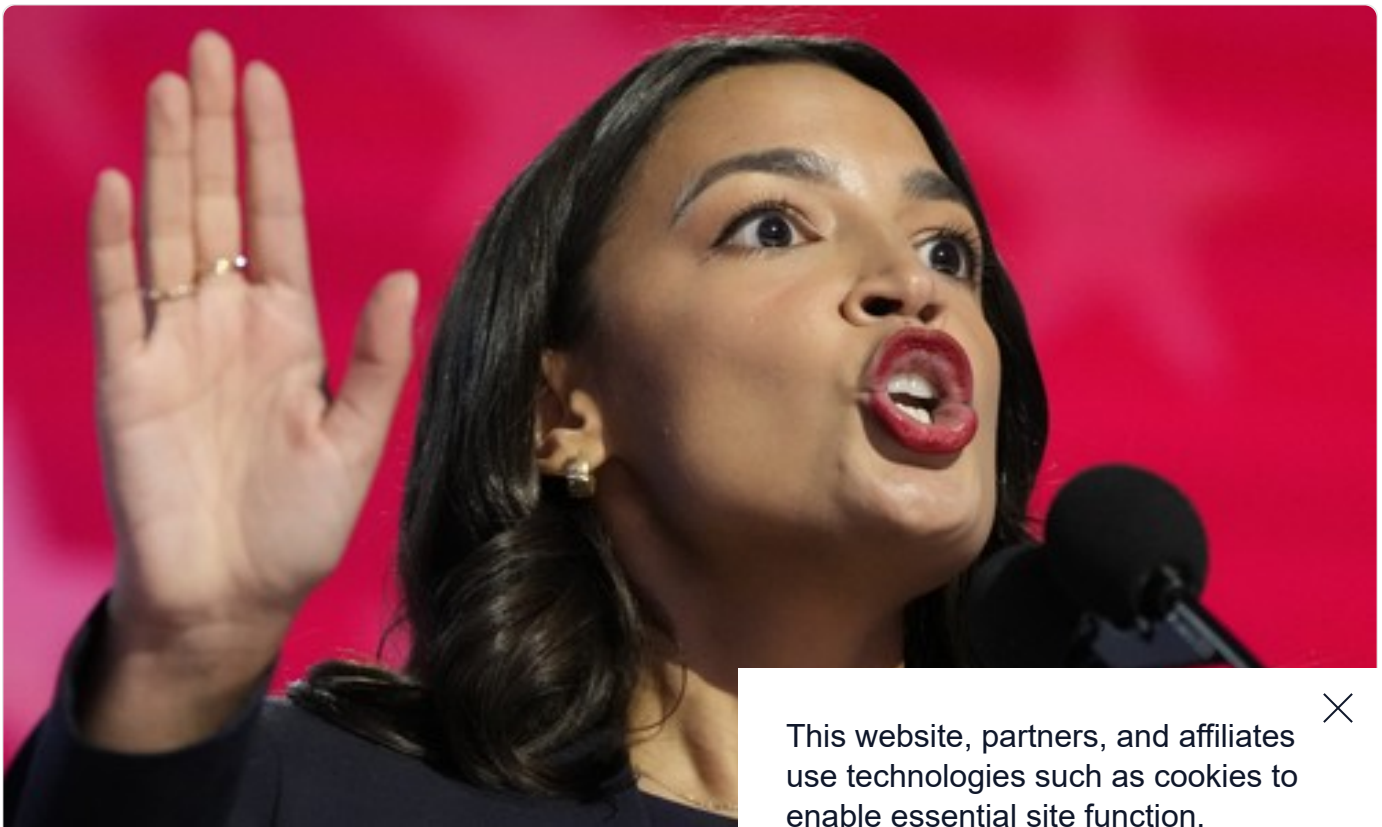
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